



# Media Fairness Initiative

## A Look at Bias in the News



### Kurtz: Liberal Media Defending Obama's Flip-Flop 6/24/08

Howard Kurtz, host of CNN's "Reliable Sources," strongly criticized the media's coverage of Sen. Barack Obama's reversal on a promise to accept public campaign funds.

On this week's episode, Kurtz argued that **"all of these liberal commentators who have always supported campaign finance reform, getting big money out of politics, many of them are defending Obama. And I have to think the press is cutting him a break here."**

Turning to his panel of commentators, Kurtz went on to point out that Obama's reversal was **"a total abandonment of a promise that Senator Obama had made repeatedly."**

Kurtz concluded the segment by saying: **"I'm not buying the notion that flip-flops are out. Apparently, only certain flip-flops are out, maybe flip-flops by certain candidates ... If George W. Bush had done this, blown off public financing as he considered doing during the 2004 campaign, there would be howls in the media about one candidate trying to buy an election."**

### Ex-Washington Post Editor 'Nervous' About McCain

Ruth Marcus, a former reporter and national editor for *The Washington Post*, stated in a recent column that she was **"nervous about what a McCain presidency would mean"** for the makeup of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Marcus, who served as the *Post*'s Deputy National Editor from 1999-2002, expressed concern that **"a President McCain could shift the court significantly to the right, while a President Obama would be lucky, even with a Democratic Senate, to nudge the court even a bit in a liberal direction."**



### Former Time Magazine Reporter Promotes Gore for VP

Margaret Carlson, former Deputy Washington Bureau Chief at *Time* magazine, recently wrote a column in which she strongly advocated for Al Gore to become vice president once again.

In the column titled, "Gore Has Right Stuff for Second Turn as No. 2," Carlson wrote that **"The most important reason Gore should be Vice President is that he's suffered and learned. He has the temperament some of us reach on our death beds."**

She continued: **"If there's anything we need to rescue us from the last eight years, it's brains, good judgment and experience. Obama has the first two. Gore has all three."**